

WINGS OF TERROR:

The Lone Pine Mountain Devil Legend

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The Lone Pine Mountain Devil is a cryptid that is said to be quite large, furry, multi-winged, bat-like, and has razor like talons. Some cryptid enthusiasts believe this creature is related to the *Sinornithosaurus*, which was one of the first dinosaurs discovered with feathers.

It is believed by some locals in Lone Pine, California, that this creature may have survived the great extinction and hid out in the Sierra Nevada Mountains in Northern California to the American Southwest and even into Northern Mexico. This creature, with its multiple layers of deadly, venomous fangs, was believed to have terrorized and even murdered many adventurers, families, gold prospectors in the 19th century.

Some skeptics of this legend scoff at the idea that a creature so hideous could have been hiding out in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. They say that the stories are mere folklore or misidentification of the various sightings that have been seen. It is said that the Lone Pine Mountain Devil could just be a large barn owl or perhaps even a Golden Eagle.

Some 19th-century reports say that when attacking its prey, the Lone Pine Mountain Devil will only devour the soft cartilage found in the torso and head of its victims. One unidentified priest even called the Lone Pine Mountain Devil “winged demons from the depths of Hell.”

Some paranormal researchers believe that the Lone Pine Mountain Devil could also be a Mothman-type cryptid, a Thunderbird, a cousin to the New Jersey Devil, or even the cryptid known as Batsquatch.

Legend has it that the only way you can become a victim of the Lone Pine Mountain Devil is if you disrupt the peace and harmony of its habitat. That peace and harmony was disrupted in 1878 by 37 Spanish settlers who disappeared in Southern California and were later discovered killed and mutilated along the trails.

I live in Sacramento, very close to the Sierra Nevada Mountains, and I have heard various stories about the Lone Pine Devil. In 1979, when I was a professional dancer for Jeff Kutash’s *Dancin’ Machine* in Lake Tahoe,



one of the dancers told me a story about a hike he went on at Freel Peak, which is the highest peak near Lake Tahoe, at 10,886 feet. While hiking in and around the peak, he saw a flying creature with a 15-foot wingspan.

When I did one of my Bigfoot expeditions in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, near the infamous Donner-Reed Party tragedy site, we met a local named Jessica who claimed that the Lone Pine Mountain Devil snatched one of her male foal (young colt) and dropped it from the air. This incident happened in 1968. They found the colt with shattered bones, as if it was dropped from the sky. Jessica said she didn’t see the actual event, but in her heart, she believes that it was the Lone Pine Mountain Devil that took this young horse and dropped it from the air.

If you travel to the Sierra Mountains, many locals believe that the legend of the Lone Pine Mountain Devil is very real. ♦